

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Timothy N. Thomas on 6/4/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

2. **The following claims have been amended and a full list is provided below:**

1-13 (canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A mopping trolley comprising:

- a) a carriage capable of translational movement over a surface;
- b) a mop press assembly carried by said carriage for expressing liquid from a mop head inserted into the press, wherein said mop press assembly includes a discharge port; and
- c) at least two liquid receptacles, wherein one of said liquid receptacles is a waste receptacle arranged to receive waste liquid expressed from the mop head, and one of said liquid receptacles is a clean receptacle for providing a source of clean liquid for use in mopping, wherein the clean receptacle is located under the mop press and the waste receptacle includes a portion positioned below the discharge port of the mop press, whereby liquid

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expressed from the mop head ~~is conveyed to the waste receptacle.~~ is diverted via the discharge port into said waste receptacle portion rather than falling into the clean receptacle.

15. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 14 wherein the clean receptacle has a greater volumetric capacity than the waste receptacle.

16. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 15 wherein the clean receptacle has a capacity that is at least 40% greater than the waste receptacle.

17. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 16 wherein the clean receptacle has a capacity that is at least 50% greater than the waste receptacle.

18. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 14 wherein the waste and clean receptacles are located on the trolley in a side-by-side arrangement so that the receptacles occupy a front region of the trolley;.

19. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley comprising carriage means capable of translational movement over a surface, a mop press assembly carried by said carriage means for expressing liquid from a mop head inserted into the press and at least two liquid receptacles, wherein a waste receptacle is arranged to receive waste liquid expressed from the mop head, and a clean receptacle is for providing a source of clean liquid for use in mopping, wherein the clean receptacle is located under the mop press and the waste receptacle is in fluid communication with a discharge port from the mop press, whereby liquid expressed from the mop head is conveyed to the waste receptacle; wherein the waste and clean receptacles are located on the trolley in a side-by-side arrangement so that the receptacles occupy a front region of the trolley; and

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further wherein the waste trolley is formed with a rim projection which extends under a mop press discharge port, thereby to collect fluid expressed from the mop head by the mop press.

20. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 19 wherein the rim projection of the waste receptacle nests with a corresponding recess in the clean receptacle so that the receptacles may sit in close proximity.

21. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 14 wherein said discharge port is provided at one side of a bottom region of the mop press assembly, so that liquid is discharged from one side of the mop press.

22. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 14 wherein the waste and clean receptacles are located on the trolley in a front and rear arrangement so that the clean receptacle occupies a front region of the trolley, and the waste receptacle occupies a rear region of the trolley.

23. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 22 wherein said discharge port directs liquid expressed from a mop head generally rearwards into the waste receptacle.

24. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 23 wherein the discharge port comprises a port formed at a rear end of a bottom region of the mop press.

25. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 14 wherein said discharge port is formed in an end cap attached to a bottom end region of the mop press assembly.

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26. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 14 wherein the receptacles are removeably located on the trolley and each receptacle independently of the other.

27. (Currently Amended) A mopping trolley comprising a carriage capable of translational movement over a surface, a mop press assembly carried by said carriage for expressing liquid from a mop head inserted into the press and at least two liquid receptacles, wherein a waste receptacle is arranged to receive waste liquid expressed from the mop head, and a clean receptacle is for providing a source of clean liquid for use in mopping, wherein the clean receptacle is located under the mop press and the waste receptacle is in fluid communication with a discharge port from the mop press, whereby liquid expressed from the mop head is ~~conveyed to the waste receptacle~~. is diverted via the discharge port into said waste receptacle rather than falling into the clean receptacle.

28. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 27 wherein the clean receptacle has a greater volumetric capacity than the waste receptacle.

29. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 28 wherein the clean receptacle has a capacity that is at least 40% greater than the waste receptacle.

30. (Currently Amended) A mopping trolley comprising a carriage capable of translational movement over a surface, a mop press assembly carried by said carriage for expressing liquid from a mop head inserted into the press and at least two liquid receptacles, wherein a waste receptacle is arranged to receive waste liquid expressed from the mop head, and a clean receptacle is for providing a source of clean liquid for

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use in mopping, wherein the clean receptacle is located directly under the mop press and the waste receptacle is in fluid communication with a diverting discharge port from the mop press, whereby liquid expressed from the mop head is ~~conveyed to the waste receptacle~~. is diverted via the discharge port into said waste receptacle rather than falling into the clean receptacle.

31. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 30 wherein the clean receptacle has a greater volumetric capacity than the waste receptacle.

32. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 31 wherein the clean receptacle has a capacity that is at least 40% greater than the waste receptacle.

33. (Previously Presented) A mopping trolley as claimed in claim 32 wherein the clean receptacle has a capacity that is at least 50% greater than the waste receptacle.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - a. The following invention is neither anticipated nor render obvious by the prior art because mop press is over both the clean and waste water receptacles and has a diverter to discharge water into the waste receptacle rather than the clean receptacle in combination with the other limitations.
4. Below are remarks by applicant.

Remarks

Claims 14-33 are pending in the application. Of those, claims 19-20 have been allowed. Claims 14-18 and 21-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,440,778 to Guzman in view of U.S. Patent No.

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4,754,518 to Griffin, or, alternatively, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No.

5,440,778 to Guzeman in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,504,392 to Baek. For the reasons set forth below, applicant traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration of the application.

Applicant has amended claims 14, 27, and 30 as presented above. The subject matter of using a discharge port to divert expressed liquid into the waste receptacle rather than letting it fall into the clean receptacle is disclosed in the application as originally filed, including at page 3, lines 15-17, page 4, lines 9-11, and page 4, lines 16-19. The subject matter is also shown in both of the illustrated embodiments, including Figure 2 showing liquid being diverted from the mop press via the discharged port 101, and Figure 3 showing expressed liquid being diverted via discharge port 101 and into the rim extension 40. Accordingly, no new matter is believed to have been added by the present amendment.

A. The §103(a) rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 5,440,778 to DeGuzeman in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,754,518 to Griffin and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,504,392 to Baek.

The examiner has rejected claims 14 to 18 and 21 to 33 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,440,778 to DeGuzman and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,754,518 to Griffin and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,504,392 to Baek. DeGuzman shows a conventional prior art mop press mounted on a wheeled bucket. Griffin and Baek each disclose mop trolleys having two liquid receptacles.

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In U.S. Patent No. 4,754,518 to Griffin, a clean liquid reservoir 33 is located in front of a waste reservoir 44. A mop press is located directly above the waste receptacle. Splash plates 47 and 58 ensure that waste liquid is directed into the waste receptacle.

In U.S. Patent No. 3,504,392 to Baek a dirty water receptacle 4 is shown next to a clean receptacle 5. The mop press shown in Figure 2 is located above the dirty water receptacle 4 so that expressed water flows into the receptacle through free space between channel members 18 (see column 3, lines 46 to 73).

If a skilled person were to combine the teachings of DeGuzman with either Griffin or Baek, he could not arrive at the present invention because Griffin and Baek each show that when two receptacles are to be utilized then the mop press must be located over the water receptacle so that expressed liquid drains directly down into the waste receptacle. By contrast the present invention requires that the clean receptacle is located under the mop press and the waste receptacle includes a portion positioned below the discharge port of the mop press whereby liquid expressed from the mop head is diverted via the discharge port to the waste receptacle rather than falling into the clean receptacle.

There is nothing in any of the cited prior art documents which would lead the skilled person to provide a mop press located over a clean receptacle and in which expressed liquid is diverted via a discharge port to a waste receptacle. The present invention thus relies upon the non-obvious provision of a discharge port which diverts expressed liquid into the portion of the waste receptacle.

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Further, none of the prior art documents include a diverting discharge port of the type described. In Baek and Griffin, the dirty liquid is expressed via a pressure plate and falls into a waste receptacle directly below the pressure plate. In DeGuzman a web mounted onto rollers is compressed around a mop head so that water falls directly into a receptacle which serves both as a waste receptacle and as a source of cleaning liquid. None of these documents discloses a discharge port capable of diverting expressed liquid.

B. Conclusion.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention claim 14 is allowable, as are all claims appended to this claim.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the pending application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Timothy N. Thomas/

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEE D. WILSON whose telephone number is 571-272-4499. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MONICA CARTER can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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